

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

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R 260848Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7643

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY

1. KIM TAE-CHUNG , HAM SOK-HONHT AND 14 OTHERS WHO SIGNED NOVEMBER 27 "NATIONAL DECLARATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY" MET DECEMBER 25 TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH A "NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY" (NCRD). THE COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING.

2. PRESS QUOTES TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN, LAWYER YI PYONG-NIN, AS SAYING THE COUNCIL IS A PAN-NATIONAL NON POLITICAL ORGANIZATION FOR RESTORATION BASIC ORDER OF DEMOCRACY, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND REPEAL OF "EVIL LAWS." POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS WILL PARTICIPATE AS INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN AS PARTY REPRESENTATIVES.

3. THE SUPREME BODY OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE A NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE THOUSANDS; A NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF 500 IS PROJECTED TO REPRESENT THE FULL SPECTRUM OF THE LARGER CONVENTION. THE POLICY DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL WILL COME FROM A "DELEGATES COMMITTEE" (TEN MEMBERS), WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF 18 "ADVISORS." DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION

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WILL BE PERFORMED BY A STEERING COMMITTEE.

4. THE DELEGATES COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

YUN HYONG-CHUNG CATHOLIC PRIEST, FORMER PRESIDENT OF
OS KYONGHYANG SHINMUM

HAM SOK-HON RELIGIOUS LEADER

YI PYONG-NIN LAWYER, AMNESTY KOREA BRANCH MEMBER

KANG WON-YONG MINISTER, KYONGDONG CHURCH, DIRECTOR
OF ACADEMY HOUSE

CHON KWAN-U FORMER EDITOR TONGA ILBO

KIM CHONG-HAM FORMER PUSAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF
LITERATURE

YI TAE-YONG LAWYER, WIFE OF CHONG IL-HYONG

KIM YONG-SAM NDP PRESIDENT

YANG IL-TONG DUP CHAIRMAN

KIM CHOL USP CHAIRMAN

5. ADVISERS INCLUDE KIM TAE-CHUNG, FORMER PRESIDENT
YUN PO-SON, CARDINAL KIM SU-HWAN, AND AN ASSORTMENT OF
NOW AGING STALWARTS OF EARLIER KOREAN POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL SCENE.

6. DRP POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED TO EMBOFF
DECEMBER 26 THAT NDP CHAIRMAN KIM YONG-SAM WAS CLEARLY
BEING PERMITTED ONLY MINIMAL ROLE IN NEW NCRD. ALTHOUGH
HE DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, HE IMPLIED THAT, FROM
GOVERNMENT STANDPOINT, NCRD MIGHT AT LEAST SERVE FUNCTION OF
FURTHER FACTIONALIZING THE OPPOSITION AND PROVIDING
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WITH MORE MODERATE ALTERNATIVE TO
CONFRONTATION-PRONE KIM YONG-SAM. PRESS DECEMBER 26 QUOTES
KIM YONG-SAM AS DECLINING MEMBERSHIP DELEGATES COMMITTEE DUE TO
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BUSY SCHEDULE. KIM REPORTEDLY SAID HE IS WILLING TO SERVE
AS AN ADVISOR TO THE COUNCIL.

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